IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) In a video on demand system for supplying video data in response to a user request, the improvement comprising:

a. A plurality of video servers each including a separate hardware and software subsystem and capable of supplying video data to said user;

b. A temporary memory for storage of said video data responsively coupled to each of said plurality of video servers; and

c. A multimedia application server including a dedicated hardware and software subsystem responsively coupled to said temporary memory which receives said request from said user, spools said video data into said temporary memory, and selects a particular one of said plurality of video servers to stream said video data from said temporary memory to said user in response to said user request.

2. (Previously Presented) The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which selects said particular one of said plurality of video servers based upon said particular one of said plurality of video servers already having said video data

loaded.

3. (Previously Presented) The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which selects said particular one of said plurality of video servers based upon which of said plurality of video servers is least utilized.

4. (Previously Presented) The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which selects said particular one of said plurality of video servers based upon which of said plurality of video servers has sufficient unused storage space.

5. (Previously Presented) The video on demand system of claim 1 further comprising logic which replaces a previous video program from said one of said plurality of video servers with said video data.

6. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a. A video program request generated by a user;

b. A plurality of video servers each having a separate hardware and software subsystem and capable of streaming said video program to said user;

c. A temporary memory for storing said video program responsively coupled to each of said plurality of video servers;

and

d. A multimedia application server having a dedicated hardware and software subsystem responsively coupled to said temporary memory which receives said video program request from said user, spools said video program into said temporary memory, and selects one of said plurality of video servers to stream said video program to said user from said temporary memory.

7. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers has already loaded said video program.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia server further comprises logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers is least busy.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises a logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers has sufficient unused storage space.

10. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises logic which directs said one of said plurality of video servers to swap said video program for an existing video program.

11. (Previously Presented) A video on demand system comprising:

a. Storing means for temporarily storing a video program;

b. Receiving means for receiving a user request for said video program and spooling said video program from long term storage into said storing means;

c. Plurality of streaming means responsively coupled to said storing means for streaming said video program from said storing means to said receiving means; and

d. Directing means responsively coupled to said receiving means and said plurality of streaming means for directing one of said plurality of streaming means to stream said video program to said user in response to said request.

12. (Previously Presented) A video on demand system according to claim 11 wherein said directing means further comprises means for selecting said one of said plurality of streaming means having said video program resident.

13. (Previously Presented) A video on demand system according to

claim 11 wherein said directing means further comprises means for choosing said one of said plurality of streaming means having sufficient free storage to store said video program.

14. (Previously Presented) A video on demand system according to claim 11 wherein said directing means further comprises means for identifying said one of said plurality of streaming means having a previous video program which may be removed to accommodate said video program.

15. (Previously Presented) A video on demand system according to claim 14 wherein said directing means further comprises means for determining that said one of said plurality of streaming means has sufficient capacity for streaming said video program.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for providing video on demand programming to a plurality of users comprising:

a. A video program request generated by one of said

plurality of users;

b. A plurality of video servers each including a separate hardware and software subsystem and capable of streaming said video program to said one of said plurality of users;

c. A temporary memory for storing said video program responsively coupled to each of said plurality of video servers; and

d. A multimedia application server having a dedicated hardware and software subsystem responsively coupled to said temporary memory which receives said video program request directly from said one of said plurality of users, spools said video program into said temporary memory, and selects one of said plurality of video servers to stream said video program to said one of said plurality of users from said temporary memory.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers has already loaded said video program.

23. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 22 wherein said multimedia server further comprises logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one

of said plurality of video servers is least busy of said plurality of video servers.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises a logic for selecting said one of said plurality of video servers if said one of said plurality of video servers has sufficient unused storage space.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 24 wherein said multimedia application server further comprises logic which directs said one of said plurality of video servers to swap said video program for an existing video program.